



Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs
John O. Pastore Center
Benjamin Rush Building #55
35 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

April 13, 2006: IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PHARMACISTS

REVIEW: Claims processing for members of the Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE) with Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Part D)

The Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA) is making every effort to make sure that members of the RIPAE program receive the appropriate benefits that they are entitled to under state law.

RIPAE members who have Part D plans may use their RIPAE card to help them pay prescription drug costs when the client would be required to pay 100% of the prescription cost. In most cases, this means that the RIPAE client is in the deductible or coverage gap phase of their Part D plan.

To ensure that RIPAE members who also have Part D plans receive the maximum benefits under both programs, these procedures must be followed:

- ✓ Members presenting a RIPAE card **must** be asked if they are members of a Part D plan.
- ✓ For those with Part D plans, the claim must be submitted to the Part D plan for payment **FIRST**.
- ✓ **If the RIPAE client is required to pay 100% of the prescription, the claim must be backed out of the system and submitted to RIPAE for payment. When the claim is backed out, it must be re-entered using the new Process Control Number (PCN). The new PCN is RIPAE.**
The claim will be paid through RIPAE at the appropriate benefit rate of 60%, 30%, or 15%. This procedure will ensure that the member receives full credit for the cost of the medication in the deductible and coverage gap phases of their Part D coverage. It will also ensure that this information is transmitted to the CMS True-of-out-Pocket (TRoOP) facilitator.
- ✓ If the claim shows a RIPAE member has a Plan D co-payment, the claim **CANNOT** be submitted to RIPAE, **even if RIPAE is cheaper than their Plan D co-payment.**

Your strict adherence to this procedure is required.

Please be reminded that RIPAE DOES NOT PAY Part D plan premiums and does not reimburse members for medication costs.

If you have any questions please call BioScrip at 1-800-213-5640.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
RI Department of Elderly Affairs